

Submission  
No 352

**INQUIRY INTO USE OF BATTERY CAGES FOR HENS IN  
THE EGG PRODUCTION INDUSTRY**

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

I believe that no animal should live a life in a cage and suffer daily abuse. I believe that battery cages should be banned completely.

Chickens experience physical sensations and emotional responses such as pain, fear, anxiety, pleasure and enjoyment.<sup>23</sup> Studies have also shown that chickens are highly social animals with complex cognitive abilities.

A life stuck in a cage with other hens, with no psychological enrichment or freedom to move, stretch etc... is utter cruelty. Not only do they suffer psychologically but physically too. Battery hens may also experience chronic pain from the development of lesions and foot problems, as a result of standing on often sloping wire floors that are designed to facilitate egg collection. Extreme inactivity also results in hens developing disuse osteoporosis, leading to chronic pain from bone fractures.

Due to the suppression of many of their natural instincts and social interactions, such as choosing a suitable nesting place to lay their eggs, hens raised in battery cages can become frustrated, fearful and aggressive. This may trigger behaviours such as hen pecking, bullying and cannibalism.

Evidence suggests that battery hens have insufficient room to maintain a normal 'personal space' and to escape from bullying by companions. Physiological stress levels are also higher in birds subject to spatial restriction.

It is time to ban all battery cages for all chickens.